



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

***PENSTEMON ANGUSTIFOLIUS***  
**NARROWLEAF PENSTEMON**

Narrowleaf Penstemon is a perennial with usually 1 erect stem 15-45 cm tall and arising from a taproot surmounted by a branched, woody crown. Basal leaves are 4-9 cm long and strap or narrowly lance-shaped with short petioles and entire margins. The opposite stem leaves are just as long but lack petioles. Foliage is glabrous, somewhat thickish, and often covered with a thin coat of bluish wax. The inflorescence consists of clusters of several short-stalked flowers in the axils of the reduced upper leaves. The tubular corolla is flared and 2-lipped at the mouth, 14-20 mm long, and pale to bright blue or lavender, and glabrous externally. The 5 narrowly lance-shaped calyx segments are 4-8 mm long and have a narrow white margin. The 4 anthers are glabrous. Flowering in May-June.

The only other species of *PENSTEMON* with a glabrous corolla in eastern Montana are *P. NITIDUS* and *P. GRANDIFLORUS* but neither have linear leaves.